

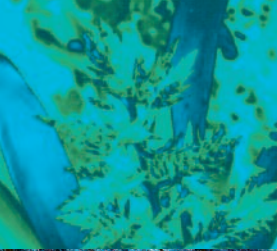
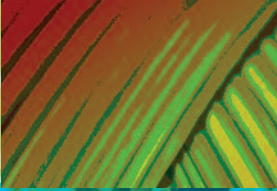
PRESENTED BY:  
MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION

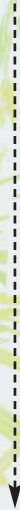
**PARKS AS CATALYSTS  
FOR GREENER, HEALTHIER,  
MORE ECONOMICALLY  
VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**

**P R O G R A M**

Friday, March 5

# Great Park Summit 2010





## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**WE CREATE OUTSTANDING RECREATIONAL, NATURAL, AND  
CULTURAL EXPERIENCES TO ENRICH YOU AND ENHANCE THE  
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR COMMUNITY FOR THIS AND  
FUTURE GENERATIONS.**





## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

**CARLOS ALVAREZ**  
MAYOR



March 5, 2010

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this great opportunity to celebrate the implementation of a broad vision for park development in Miami-Dade County.

During the past four years, many of you have been among the park and public space leaders, elected officials, county and municipal professionals and community advocates who made the Park and Open Space System Master Plan vision for a sustainable, livable South Florida. With your great support, that vision was prepared and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

We are proud to report that the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received the 2009 Governor's Sterling Award for performance excellence, featuring the Park and Open Space System Master Plan as one of its most significant initiatives. The award, presented by Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Sterling Council, recognizes organizations and businesses in Florida that have successfully achieved performance excellence within their management and operations.

The development of greenways, parks and open space connections is essential to the health, well-being and quality of life; they will become an integral part of the economic and environmental health of our community and help to define the character of our neighborhoods.

We can use today's event to address the new and different ways community organizations, government agencies and private institutions can work together to build a livable community and conserve our parks and open spaces for future generations. We look forward to working with all of you to continue toward the realization of our on-going vision for a great park system.

Thank you for your participation and enjoy the day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Alvarez".

Carlos Alvarez  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Burgess".

George Burgess  
County Manager



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 5, 2010

Welcome to the Great Park Summit – 2010!



Thank you for taking this opportunity to learn how the Miami-Dade County's Park and Open Space Master Plan is becoming a reality. In order to keep the momentum going it will take all of us, working together to create a seamless network of parks, recreation and conservation open spaces for current and future generations. This is also a day for us to acknowledge and discuss the benefit of parks and public space to the health and economic welfare of our community.

The Great Park Summit is a time for us to reignite the spirit of collaboration and partnership that is necessary to build a lasting coalition of park and public space advocates. We hope this opportunity will serve to further the interaction and sharing of ideas and insights on how we can work together to continue to improve the quality of life in our community for everyone.

We look forward to meeting you at this very exciting event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis C. Moss".

Dennis C. Moss  
Chair of the Board of County Commissioners  
Commissioner, District 9

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Javier Souto".

Javier Souto  
Chair of Recreation, Culture and Tourism Committee  
Commissioner, District 10





## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

March 5, 2010

Dear Great Park Summit Participants:



Welcome to the Great Park Summit. Today we are celebrating the major achievements that have been made and the initiatives that are underway in conformance with the vision of the Miami-Dade County Park and Open Space Master Plan, approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2008. It is, after all, the implementation of the vision that will provide for a more livable, greener, healthier South Florida. It is a privilege to report to you on the recent development of various elements in our park system and describe to you how they contribute to the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of our community.

It is increasingly important that we not forget the issues affecting our communities which helped shape the plan vision and guiding principles. These principles are the framework for addressing the challenges that will enable us to carry forward the creation of a more livable and sustainable community.

Thank you for your support of the Great Park Summit. It is our goal to provide you with information and ideas that together we can use to create a system of parks and open spaces to benefit the entire county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Kardys". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "K".

Jack Kardys  
Director

# Great Park Summit

## 2010

PRESENTED BY:  
MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION



## SCHEDULE

### 8:00 – 8:45 AM

Registration  
Complimentary Continental Breakfast; Exhibitors

### 8:45 – 9:00 AM WELCOMING REMARKS:

**Bruce Greer**, President, Board of Trustees,  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

### 9:00 – 9:30 AM OPENING REMARKS:

**Honorable Carlos Alvarez**, Mayor, Miami-Dade County  
**Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez**, District 7, Miami-Dade  
County Commissioner

**George M. Burgess**, Miami-Dade County Manager  
**Jack Kardys**, Director, Miami-Dade County Park and  
Recreation Department

### *PRESIDING:*

**Harvey Ruvin**, Clerk of Courts, Miami-Dade County;  
Chair, Board of County Commissioners Task Force on  
Climate Change

### MORNING SESSION

#### 9:30 – 10:30 AM

**Steve Coleman**  
Executive Director & President  
Washington Parks & People

**TOPIC:** *Parks for People: Rediscovering the Power of  
the Village Green*

#### 10:30 – 11:15 AM

**Kevin Caravati, P.G.**  
Senior Research Scientist  
Georgia Tech Research Institute

**TOPIC:** *Parks Rescue...Economy/Health/Environment*

## FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

## March 5, 2010

### 11:15 – NOON

**Jack Kardys**  
Director, Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department  
**TOPIC:** *Park and Open Space System Master  
Plan Implementation*

### NOON – 1:00 PM

Complimentary Lunch; Exhibitors

### AFTERNOON SESSION

#### 1:00 – 2:00 PM

**Peter N. Wood, MPA**, Vice President of Programs &  
Community Investments  
Health Foundation of South Florida  
**TOPIC:** *Health and the Built Environment*

#### 2:00 – 2:30 PM CLOSING REMARKS:

**W. Howard Gregg**, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County  
Park and Recreation Department  
**CHALLENGE:** *Get Fit – It's a Walk in the Park*

# P R E S E N T E R S



**HARVEY RUVIN - PRESIDING.** Harvey Ruvin has 35 years of public service that includes 20 years as a Miami-Dade County Commissioner. Throughout his career, he has proven to be a successful advocate for the environment.

As a County Commissioner, Mr. Ruvin sponsored ordinances, referenda and projects that protected the environment, including a \$90 million tax levy for the purchase and maintenance of endangered lands, the re-nourishment of Haulover Beach and the restoration and enhancement of Biscayne Bay.

Serving on numerous civic organizations and councils, Mr. Ruvin has made an impact on national and international levels. He was a delegate to the United Nations World Congress for a Sustainable Future, a member of President Carter's Council on Energy Efficiency and President Clinton's Sustainable Communities Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development, and most recently, Mr. Ruvin is Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Task Force on Climate Change.



**JACK KARDYS** is the Director of the accredited Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department, the third largest park system in the country with 262 parks on 12,668 acres of land. It serves 2.5 million residents and 10 million visitors annually. Dedicating his career to public service, he has served the Department for more than 29 years. Daily, Miami-Dade Parks plays a vital role in developing a healthier, more comfortable and environmentally-conscious lifestyle in Miami-Dade County. Its facilities, programs and services have been recognized with the NRPA National Gold Medal Award and the 2009 Florida Governor's Sterling Award for excellence in management.

The Parks and Open Space System Master Plan has established the blueprint for further improving the quality of life in Miami and transforming it into a more livable, loveable and sustainable place to live. Together with the collaboration of community partners, the plan will enhance the community's health, environment, social well-being, and its economic prosperity.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**STEVE COLEMAN** has forged community park partnerships across the District of Columbia, and he is a leader in the growing international urban parks movement, assisting urban park partnerships across the country and beyond. Beginning with the youth drive he co-founded 30 years ago to restore a forgotten stream valley park, Coleman has mobilized tens of thousands of people and raised millions of dollars to reclaim, restore, and revitalize once-forgotten parks. As Executive Director and President of Washington Parks & People, he leads the capital's 20-year-old alliance of public/private parks partnerships, managing partnerships for park restoration and park-based community health, job training, and education.

Coleman's work has won commendations from the Conservation Fund, the National Park Foundation, the National Congress for Community Economic Development, the National Park Service, the United States Park Police, and the President of the United States (Partnership Leadership Award). A trustee of the National Recreation and Park Association and the City Parks Alliance, he has been guest speaker at numerous regional, national, and international parks conferences. Coleman also serves as chair of Parks for Life: the International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance.



# P R E S E N T E R S



**KEVIN CARAVATI** is a Senior Research Scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), the applied research arm of the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has nearly 25 years of experience in environmental programs, working primarily in the Southeast. He received his B.S. degree in Geology from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and a M.S. in Geology-Hydrogeology track from the University of South Florida. He earned an MBA from the Stetson School of Business and Economics at Mercer University in Atlanta. He began work with GTRI in 2002.

The Red Fields to Green Fields project was initiated in Atlanta in July 2009 with the Georgia Tech School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and has been expanded to include five additional cities in the US. Scientists, engineers, economists, policy makers, and a broad range of stakeholders are engaged on this national effort to address economic challenges and the potential opportunities.



**PETER NEAL WOOD, MPA** has served on the staff of the Health Foundation of South Florida in Miami, Florida since January 2001. Within his current position as Vice President of Programs and Community Investments, he is responsible for the development and management of all grantmaking programs and processes. He is the Chair of the Miami Dade County Health and the Built Environment Committee, a part of the Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade. Peter also serves as on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of Grantmakers in Aging.

For the seven years prior to joining the staff at the Foundation, Peter conducted research and provided public management consulting on a range of state health and social issues at the University of Washington's Institute for Public Policy and Management. Before his employment at the University of Washington, he earned a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from that University's Daniel J. Evans Schools of Public Affairs.



# GET FIT

IT'S A WALK IN THE PARK

---

**FAMILY FUN WALK**

**TROPICAL PARK**

**SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2010**

**9:00AM**

**PRIZES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS**





# PARK AND OPEN



# SPACE SYSTEM



# MASTER PLAN



# VISION

# PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Miami-Dade County is facing the same population growth issues as many other metropolitan areas, a diminished quality of life, increased congestion, declining recreation and conservation open space, visual blight, limited transportation options and social inequities. With the population expected to increase by three million residents in the year 2025 and up to 4.5 million by 2060, additional pressure will be placed on an already stressed physical, social, and economic environment.

This Park and Open Space System Master Plan envisions that great parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, streets, greenways, blueways, and trails can form the framework for a more sustainable community. Such a plan for the public realm cannot be considered as an isolated system, but one that is integrated into the overall fabric of the community and one that will create the kind of place where residents want to live, employers want to do business, and tourists want to visit.

The goal of this Master Planning process is to “create a seamless, sustainable system of parks, recreation and conservation open spaces for this and future generations.”

## VISION

**GREAT PARKS** are for everyone, and should provide a diverse and balanced system of active and passive recreational opportunities. The County's Vision is that residents of every neighborhood, urban, suburban, rural, incorporated and unincorporated, have equal access to places to walk, to exercise, to socialize and to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle.

**GREAT PUBLIC SPACES** often define the great cities of the world. As Miami-Dade County develops more densely, there will be a need for great, attractive, usable public spaces that provide an opportunity for meaningful recreation experiences. These can be anything from neighborhood plazas to great waterfront vistas and promenades.

There is especially great potential for new transit station parks/urban plazas that would serve as the central gathering places for transit oriented developments (TODs). These public spaces could have a small service area radius of about one quarter of a mile, and serve local residents' needs for walking, meeting, informal play, and special events. Not only would they provide another outlet for recreation and social interaction, transit-oriented parks would also act as a place-maker and a form-giver to TODs.

**GREAT NATURAL AND CULTURAL PLACES** can be celebrated in a system of Zones (clusters of Environmentally Endangered Lands and Cultural Resource Centers) that: provide a variety of education activities and programs; elevate the public's appreciation and understanding of the County's natural ecosystems and cultural amenities; engage the surrounding neighborhoods; and link the sites with the other elements of the open space system through streets, greenways, and water trails.

**GREAT GREENWAYS TRAILS AND WATER TRAILS** can form an interconnected system that: provides transportation alternatives and reduces traffic congestion; creates new recreational opportunities; increases property values; protects natural resources; and encourages tourism and business development. These trails strengthen connections across the County, from Broward to Monroe Counties, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Everglades.

**GREAT STREETS** can be created through the redevelopment of existing arterial and collector roads to: create urban form and identity; improve aesthetics; provide for bicycle/pedestrian safety and comfort; and to improve the social, physical and economic environment for land uses along the corridors. To facilitate the creation of great streets, Miami-Dade County must move beyond vehicular performance-based street design and instead design streets that are defined by their role in the community. While all streets should have a minimum level of accessibility to all modes of transportation, not all streets require the same details.



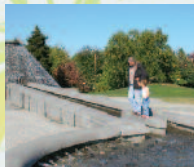
# great places have great spaces

## SEATTLE

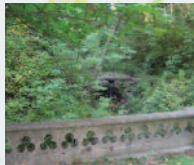
Parks are accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability



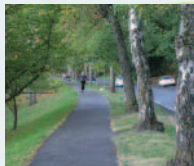
Public spaces are designed to engage residents



Natural and cultural areas are planned and managed to balance access and resource protection



Greenways, blueways, and trails connect every resident to places throughout the community



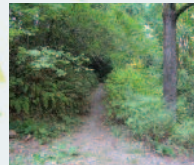
Streets are designed as linear parks



## CHICAGO



## VANCOUVER



## BOSTON





# PRINCIPLES

**EQUITY** - Every resident should be able to enjoy the same quality of public facilities and services regardless of income, age, race, ability or geographic location.

**ACCESS** - Every resident should be able to safely and comfortably walk, bicycle, drive and/or ride transit from their home to work, school, parks, shopping and community facilities.

**BEAUTY** - Every public space, including streets, parks, plazas and civic buildings, should be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing as possible, and to complement the natural and cultural landscape.

**MULTIPLE BENEFITS** - Every single public action should generate multiple public benefits to maximize taxpayer dollars.

**SEAMLESSNESS** - Every element of the County, including neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, streets, civic centers and commercial areas, should be connected without regard to jurisdiction.

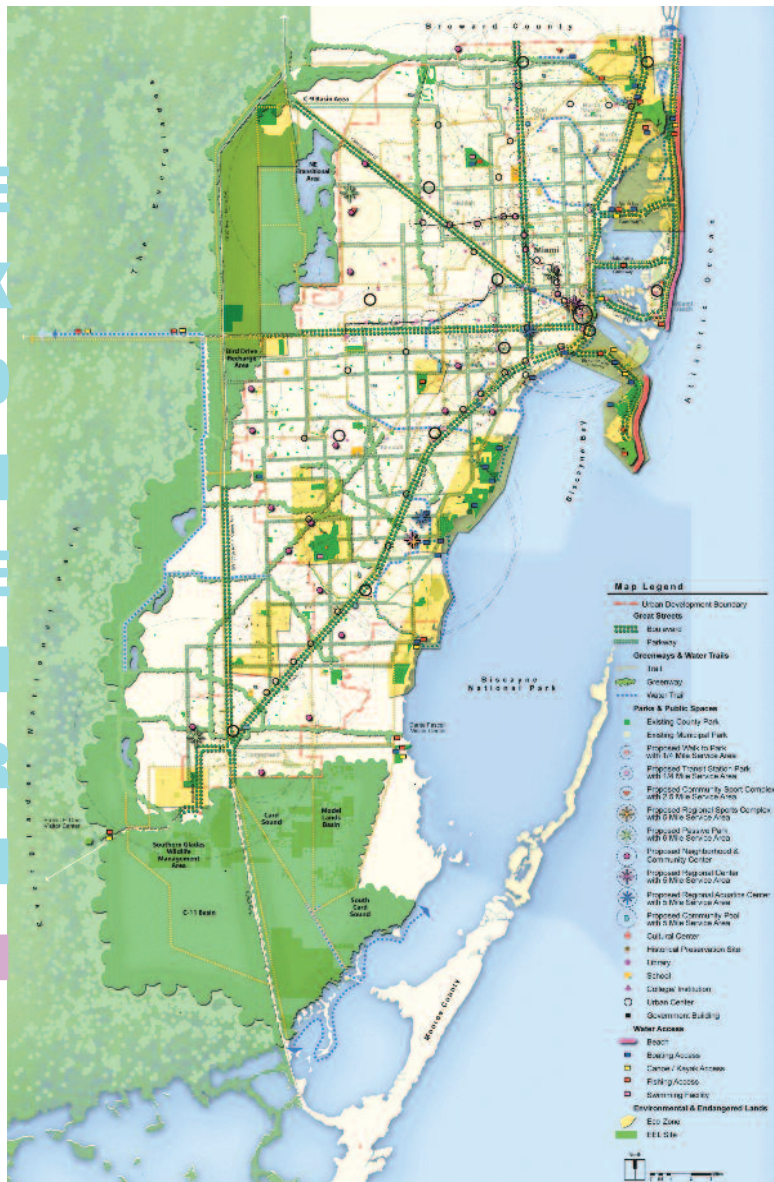
**SUSTAINABILITY** - Every action and improvement of the Park System, including facilities, programs, operations and management, should contribute to the economic, social and environmental prosperity of the County.

Following these principles, Miami-Dade County can expand its Parks and Open Space System to form the foundation and framework for a seamless, livable and sustainable community. Imagine a future Miami-Dade County where:

- Every resident in the County can walk (within 5 minutes) to a central neighborhood park and civic space for picnics, special events, informal play and socialization.
- Every resident can safely and comfortably walk, bicycle, or take transit to community parks, recreation centers and special use/sports facilities.
- Parks provide for a balance of active and passive uses.
- The County Parks Department works with every municipality and the School District to provide public access to schools, city parks, and County recreation areas.
- Equitable public access is provided to lakes, beaches, and other major natural features.
- Conservation areas and critical habitat are protected from over-use and negative impacts.
- An interconnected network of shaded and safe bikeways and trails connect to parks, neighborhoods, schools, employment centers, civic buildings, and other community destinations.
- Existing streets are transformed into tree-lined boulevards and parkways that define the County's urban form.
- Bus transit is provided to every park and civic site.
- Public art, signage and cultural/historical exhibits are integrated into every park and public realm/infrastructure project to "tell the County's story" and to create a sense of place.
- The County's significant cultural and historical sites are protected, maintained, and promoted.
- Park improvements are used as catalysts for neighborhood stabilization and/or redevelopment.
- Parks are designed to reduce energy and water consumption, and to serve as models for sustainable development County-wide.
- Parks are designed to be flexible in order to accommodate ever-changing recreation trends and demographics.
- Residents of surrounding neighborhoods are engaged in the planning and design of each park.



# THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM MASTER PLAN VISION



**PROUD SPONSORS OF THE**

Great Park  
Summit

**2 0 1 0**

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the **PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE** for their generous contribution and continued support of this event and the Park And Open Space System Master Plan.

**EMERALD (\$10,000)**

Palmetto Truck Center

**FOREST (\$5,000)**

Sonesta Bayfront Hotel  
Coconut Grove

**JADE (\$2,500)**

PBS&J  
Recreational Design  
& Construction  
URS Corporation  
Bacardi USA  
Rep Services, Inc.

**SAGE (\$1,000)**

Vortex Aquatic  
Structures Int'l, Inc.  
Shade Systems, Inc.  
Rosenberg Gardner Design  
Forbes Architects  
Health Foundation  
of South Florida  
AECOM / Glatting Jackson  
Curtis + Rogers  
Design Studio, Inc.

**FERN (\$500)**

EAS Engineering, Inc.  
Kimley – Horn  
& Associates, Inc.  
Municipal Lighting  
Systems, Inc.  
University of Miami

**PINE (\$250)**

Marlin Engineering, Inc.

# We Know Trucks

**Specializing in  
commercial truck  
sales and leasing**



7245 N.W. 36 Street • Miami, FL 33166 • 1-866-924-9216 • [www.palmettotruck.com](http://www.palmettotruck.com)



## **ABOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received the 2009 Governor's Sterling Award for performance excellence featuring the Park and Open Space System Master Plan as one of its most significant initiatives. The Award, presented by Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Sterling Council, recognizes organizations and businesses in Florida that have successfully achieved performance excellence within their management and operations.

A three-time winner of the National Gold Medal for excellence in park and recreation administration, Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department serves a growing and diverse population, who use our parks, attend our events and participate in our programs.

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department manages approximately 12,673 acres of land, half of which are environmentally sensitive or threatened natural areas requiring protection and conservation, and maintains over 263 parks, recreation facilities and greenway areas to provide essential quality of life services to a resident population of over 2 million people. Thousands each year enjoy our diverse and engaging programs including eco-tourism, performing arts, after-school and summer camps and activities for seniors.

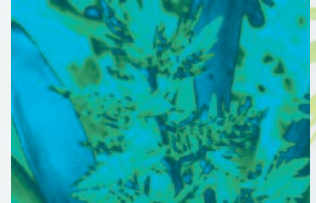
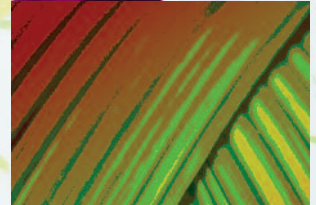
Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department is a proven leader in its field and continues to be awarded National Accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies.

## **ABOUT FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN**

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is dedicated to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. It is one of the premier conservation and education-based gardens in the world and a recognized international leader in both Florida and international conservation. Currently Fairchild has field programs in over 20 countries including support to protected areas in Madagascar and botanic garden development and renovation projects in South and Central America, the Caribbean and Middle East. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden houses the National Palm Collection as recognized by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA); has the world's greatest living collection of palms and cycads; provides an education program reaching more than 30,000 school children per year; hosts popular events such as the International Mango Festival, International Chocolate Festival, the Orchid Festival, the Ramble, concerts, affiliated plant society shows and sales and more; and, is a not-for-profit organization relying on the support of its 40,000 members and benefactors. Fairchild also hosts major art events such as Botero, Chihuly and Lichtenstein at Fairchild this year and Chihuly at Fairchild in 2005 and 2006.

# **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GREAT PARK SUMMIT 2010 STEERING COMMITTEE**

<b>JACK KARDYS</b>	Director of Parks and Recreation
<b>KEVIN KIRWIN</b>	Assistant to the Director
<b>HOWARD GREGG</b>	Deputy Director
<b>MARIA NARDI</b>	Chief, Planning and Research Division
<b>JOHN BOWERS</b>	Special Projects Administrator
<b>ERIC HANSEN</b>	Recreation Planner
<b>DAVID LIVINGSTONE</b>	Special Projects Administrator
<b>DORIS HOWE</b>	Communications Manager
<b>DONNA PEYTON</b>	Manager of Parks and Recreation Fundraising and Development
<b>JUAN ARMAS</b>	Training Manager



To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call 305-365-6706.





## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**Carlos Alvarez**

*Mayor*

### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Dennis C. Moss**, *Chairman*

**José “Pepe” Diaz**, *Vice Chairman*

**Barbara J. Jordan**

*District 1*

**Dorrin D. Rolle**

*District 2*

**Audrey M. Edmonson**

*District 3*

**Sally A. Heyman**

*District 4*

**Bruno A. Barreiro**

*District 5*

**Rebeca Sosa**

*District 6*

**Carlos A. Gimenez**

*District 7*

**Katy Sorenson**

*District 8*

**Dennis C. Moss**

*District 9*

**Sen. Javier D. Souto**

*District 10*

**Joe A. Martinez**

*District 11*

**José “Pepe” Diaz**

*District 12*

**Natacha Seijas**

*District 13*

**Harvey Ruvin**

*Clerk of Courts*

**George M. Burgess**

*County Manager*

**Robert A. Cuevas, Jr.**

*County Attorney*

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

“It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

# Great Park Summit

2 0 1 0